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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, HR, AF

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH EC COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON ON
AFRICAN ISSUES

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1. SUMMARY. CLAUDE CHEYSSON OF FRANCE, WHO IS EC COMMISSIONER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT, VISITED WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 21-22 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON NUMBER OF ISSUES. IN MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, RICHARD M. MOOSE, CHEYSSON RAISED ISSUES OF U.S. AND EC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA, CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA IN HORN AND CONFLICT BETWEEN ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OVER SPANISH SAHARA. CHEYSSON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) EC WELCOMED OPPORTUNITIES TO COORDINATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA WITH U.S., (2) NEW LOME II AGREEMENT NOW BEING DISCUSSED WAS LIKELY TO HAVE PLANK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, (3) MENGISTU OF ETHIOPIA HAD INDICATED USSR WAS FEARFUL RED SEA WAS BECOMING "ARAB LAKE" WHICH WOULD CURTAIL USSR'S ACCESS TO INDIAN OCEAN; CHEYSSON FELT U.S. SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO USSR THAT FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION WAS NOT AT STAKE, (4) EC WAS WELL PLACED TO PICK UP TRAINING OF YOUNG SOMALIS WHOSE TRAINING UNDER USSR AUSPICES HAD BEEN CUT OFF, (5) THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD SHIFT DEVELOPMENTAL RESOURCES TO ITS NORTHERN AREA TO BE SEEN BY TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE AREA AS A BETTER SOURCE OF HELP THAN SOMALIA, (6) ALGERIA WAS BEHIND POLISARIO MOVEMENT IN THE SPANISH SAHARA AND WAS PLAYING A "DIRTY GAME" WHICH WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHER ARAB NATIONS; IF THE FRENCH ELECTION LED TO A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT THERE WOULD BE A THREE-MONTH "HONEYMOON" PERIOD BETWEEN FRANCE AND ALGERIA DURING WHICH TIME PROPOSAL TO END THE CONFLICT CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD BE PUT FORWARD; UNFORTUNATELY, CHEYSSON CONCLUDED, HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF A SOLUTION COULD BE PROPOSED.

MOOSE RAISED ISSUES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND NEED FOR SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS. HE WELCOMED THE EC INITIATIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN WESTERN TIES AND DIALOGUE WITH ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. CLAUDE CHEYSSON, EC COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT, VISITED WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 21-22 AND DISCUSSED WIDE RANGE OF AFRICAN ISSUES IN MEETING ON FEBRUARY 21 WITH AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD M. MOOSE.

3. CHEYSSON OPENED THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION NOTING THAT COORDINATION OF US/EC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA WAS DESIRABLE. HE RECOUNTED DURING SAHEL DROUGHT CRISES OF EARLY 1970'S HE HAD OBSERVED A NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHEN THE US AND EC REPRESENTATIVES COOPERATED CLOSELY TO MOVE GOODS TO THE RIGHT PLACE IN A TIMELY FASHION. CHEYSSON ADDED HE WAS ALSO AWARE OF MORE RECENT OCCASIONS WHERE US/EC COORDINATION WAS PARTICU-

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LARLY EFFECTIVE.

4. CHEYSSON SAID HE PREFERRED TO DISCUSS POLITICAL RATHER THAN ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT WOULD NOT RAISE ISSUES RELATING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE THE SUBJECT WAS BEING DISCUSSED FREQUENTLY ELSEWHERE. MOOSE NOTED HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR EC VIEWS ON THREE TOPICS: (1) REGIONAL COOPERATION IN AFRICA. ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL OR DIVISIVE? (2) THE NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE US EMPHASIS ON "NEW DIRECTIONS" PROGRAMS, AND (3) HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. CHEYSSON SAID EC CLEARLY PREFERRED REGIONAL APPROACHES WHICH DE-EMPHASIZED OLD COLONIAL TIES. THE LOME CONVEN-
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TION HE THOUGHT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL "REGIONAL, UNCONDITIONAL" PROGRAM. HE ADDED IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, FOR A REGIONAL GROUP TO PROPOSE A REGIONAL PROGRAM; RATHER EACH INTERESTED MEMBER GOVERNMENT HAD TO COMMIT ITSELF TO SUCH PROGRAMS IF THE ACTIVITIES WERE TO BE EFFECTIVE. ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL PRO-GRAMMING, HE THOUGHT, WAS ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.

6. ON INFRASTRUCTURE, CHEYSSON SAID THE EC HAD A GOLDEN RULE: "LET THEM (THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES) DECIDE THE PRIORITIES OF DEVELOPMENT." HE OBSERVED THE EC, HOWEVER, DID NOT SUPPORT JUST ANY PROPOSAL OFFERED AND IN FACT 40 PERCENT OF EC RESOURCES WENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT WHILE MUCH OF THE REST WAS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND ROADS TO HELP EASE THE COST OF POWER FOR LANDLOCKED STATES. CHEYSSON SAID THE EC, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS HELPING TO FINANCE THE CON-STRUCTION OF A "NETWORK" OF MOTOR ROADS AND RAILROADS IN PARTS OF WEST AFRICA. IN EAST AFRICA, HE NOTED, THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS HELPED REDUCE RE-LIANCE ON TRANSIT THROUGH UGANDA.

7. CHEYSSON SAID HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE RECENT VISIT OF U.S. OFFICIALS TO EUROPE TO DISCUSS THE U.S. POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAS STRUCK BY THE SIMILARITY OF THE U.S. AND EC VIEWS. HE NOTED THE EC NOW EXPECTS TO INSERT IN THE PREAMBLE SECTION OF THE PROPOSED LOME II AGREEMENT A SECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PREFERABLY USING LANGUAGE EMPHASIZING IN A POSITIVE MANNER THE NEED TO HAVE GOVERN-MENTS OBSERVE SOCIAL RIGHTS OF THEIR PEOPLE.

8. MOOSE WELCOMED THE EC INITIATIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOTED IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT POSITIVE
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CHANGES ACCOMPLISHED BY HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND TO DATE THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY MANDATED BY CONGRESS HAD BEEN OF A NEGATIVE CHARACTER BY WHICH WE DISAPPROVED OF PARTICULAR LOANS PROPOSED FOR OFFENDING NATIONS.

9. TURNING TO THE HORN OF AFRICA CHEYSSON SAID THAT WHEN HE MET ETHIOPIA'S LEADER MENGISTU SOME MONTHS AGO, MENGISTU SAID THE USSR FEARED THE RED SEA WAS BECOMING AN ARAB OR SAUDI LAKE WHICH WOULD INHIBIT THE SOVIET'S FREE NAVIGATION AND ACCESS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. CHEYSSON THOUGHT TO CURTAIL THE SOVIET'S PUSH FOR BASES IN THE AREA, THE U.S. SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE USSR THAT FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OF THE RED SEA WAS NOT AT STAKE. (CHEYSSON SPECIFICALLY REPEATED THIS POINT LATER IN THE MEETING.) CHEYSSON FELT THE EC WAS WELL PLACED TO FINANCE THE TRAINING OF YOUNG SOMALIS WHOSE TRAINING UNDER USSR AUSPICES HAD BEEN CUT OFF. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THE USSR PROBABLY WOULD TRY TO GET RID OF SOMALIA'S LEADER, SIAD BARRE.

10. MOOSE SAID IT WAS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN WESTERN TIES WITH ETHIOPIA AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMISSARY, DAVID AARON, RECENTLY HAD HAD A VERY HELPFUL CONVERSATION WITH MENGISTU. THE U.S. WAS KEEPING OPEN ITS ASSISTANCE TIES WITH BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA BUT THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. MOOSE NOTED WE WERE ENCOURAGING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BUT ISSUE OF POLITICAL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN THE OGADEN WAS COMPLEX.

11. CHEYSSON RAISED THE ISSUE OF KENYAN INVOLVEMENT AND SUGGESTED THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD SHIFT DEVELOP-MENTAL RESOURCES TO ITS NORTHERN AREA AND BE SEEN BY TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE AREA AS A BETTER SOURCE OF HELP THAN THE SOMALIA AUTHORITIES. HE THOUGHT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT HELP KENYA FINANCE SUCH A PROGRAM; ONE PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

TO TAP THE WATERS OF LAKE RUDOLPH.

12. SHIFTING TO NORTHWEST AFRICA, CHEYSSON SAID ALGERIA'S LEADER BOUMEDIENE "STUCK HIS NECK OUT" IN HIS CONFRONTATION WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OVER SPANISH SAHARA AND NOW ALGERIA COULD NEITHER ADVANCE NOR RETREAT. OFF THE RECORD, HE SAID, THE POLISARIO IS AN ALGERIAN

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CREATION AND NOT REALLY AN INDEPENDENT FORCE. HE THOUGHT THE ALGERIANS WERE PLAYING A DIRTY GAME AND THEY SHOULD RECOGNIZE IN THAT PART OF AFRICA NONE OF THE NOMADS WANTED ANY POLITICAL CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED OVER THEIR LIVES. HE SAID NO OTHER ARAB COUNTRY WAS SUPPORTING THE ALGERIANS ON THIS ISSUE, NOT EVEN LIBYA. FRENCH INTERVENTION IN THE REGION CHEYSSON THOUGHT HAD BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL AND NOW ONLY COMMANDOTYPE RAIDS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT. HE NOTED IF THERE WERE A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE THEN THERE WOULD BE A THREE-MONTH "HONEYMOON" PERIOD BETWEEN FRANCE AND ALGERIA DURING WHICH TIME THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROPOSE A SOLUTION.CHEYSSON CONCLUDED THAT UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SOLUTION COULD BE PROPOSED. ADDRESSEES SHOULD PROTECT CHEYSSON'S REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE NEW APPROACH TO WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEMS. VANCE

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